
East Tennessee Writer

Newsletter of the Knoxville Writers' Guild
Volume 10, Number 4, April 2002



Catherine Landis (Photo by Tatgenhorst)

KWG Member Lands 2-book Contract

Catherine Landis, known in Knoxville Writers' Guild membership rolls as Cathy Henschen, has landed a two-book contract with St. Martin's Press. Judges of the first Leslie Garrett contest in 1993 knew that Cathy had talent when she won top honors in the initial short story competition named in honor of the late Knoxville writer, Leslie Garrett.

Cathy's first novel, *Some Days There's Pie*, has been chosen as a Mother's Day Pick at Barnes and Noble stores all over the country and will go on sale April 12.

Her next book will be published in 2003. You'll get to hear selections from her work when Cathy reads at the July program of the Knoxville Writers' Guild. She will also be reading at Barnes & Noble Book Sellers on May 2.

Remember: Guild Gala Sat., April 6

- **Winners of Literary Competitions announced**
- **Carson Brewer Honored**

And the winner is? The public is invited to find out the winners of our recent literary competitions in the 2001 short fiction, poetry and essay contests by attending the 2002 Knoxville Writers' Guild awards gala on Saturday, April 6. Until the announcements, only one winner is known for sure. Beloved author and *News-Sentinel* columnist, Carson Brewer, will receive a career achievement award from fellow writer Sam Venable. Other awards presenters will include *News-Sentinel* columnist Don Williams, editor of the literary journal *New Millennium Writings*, and poets Jeff Daniel Marion, Linda Parsons Marion, Marybeth Boyanton, Laura Still and KWG President Julie Auer, who will emcee.

This first-ever awards program will feature a cash bar, free hors d'oeuvres, live music by the Rocky Wynder Jazz combo and Doug LaVerne steel drums, as well as appearances by celebrated writers, including recording artist and playwright R.B. Morris, who will appear as novelist James Agee.

Festivities begin with a social hour at 6 p.m. at The Lord Lindsey, the elegant old mansion with the white columns at 615 West Hill Ave., just northeast of Henley Street Bridge. Tickets are \$10. To reserve seats, make checks payable to 'KWG' and mail them to Gala Tickets at P.O. Box 10326, Knoxville, TN 37939. Include phone number and address. Tickets will be available at the door on a first-come, first-serve basis as long as they last. For more information, visit www.knoxvillewritersguild.org or contact Don Williams at donwilliams7@att.net or phone 865-428-0389.



Adam Johnson

Johnson to Read on April 4

Adam Johnson, a Jones Lecturer at Stanford University, will read from his new collection, *Emporium*, Thursday April 4 at 7 p.m. at the Laurel Theater, 16th and Laurel. His fiction has appeared in *Esquire*, *Harper's*, *Paris Review*, and *Best New American Voices*. He is currently working on his first novel. (Continued, p.2)

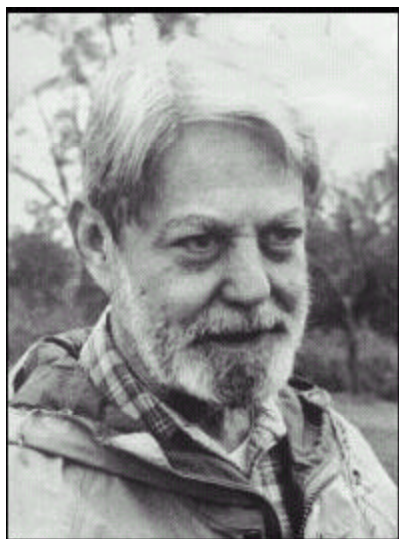
The Writing News

STUDY GROUPS: In addition to its monthly meetings, the Knoxville Writers' Guild also offers Study Groups (for members only). Join the Guild (See form on back page of this newsletter) and you may choose to work with others who share your interest in writing. For more information, these group leaders: Novel Writers Group: Timothy Joseph, joseph@esper.com ; Poetry Interest Group: Marybeth Boyanton, Poetry-in-Progress: kwj.pip.workshop@att.net; Writing Women: Doris Ivie, divie@stcc.cc.tn.us; Short Fiction: Pamela Schoenewaldt, schoene@bellsouth.net. Multi-genre: non-fiction, fiction, poetry: Suzanne Burnell, sburnell@fwenc.com; Essay/non-fiction: Marlene Taylor, mtaylor@metrononline.com. The short fiction group is presently full and wants to start up another group to facilitate those who wish to work in that genre. Those interested should get in touch with

SHELBY FOOTE

On American poetry: "American poetry, as far as I can see, is as dead as a doornail. The reason is that all the American poets are on college campuses, and they sit around talking about their work—which a writer knows you're not supposed to do—and jumping the coeds, which is time-consuming."

On writing history: "My point about writing history is that the facts must be told with the art of true narrative. The prose of academics is often so dismal that the footnotes are not an interruption, but a welcome relief."



On God: "I have very little concern with life after death. Thomas Hardy said, 'I've been looking for God for 50 years and if he was there, I would have found him.'"

(Quotes from Enterprise Magazine and Albany Magazine)

Shelby Foote

(Johnson, cont. from p.1)

Critics have praised Johnson's collection of short stories.



Publishers' Weekly has this to say: "Suburban life throbs with paranoid violence in the subtly skewed, futuristic world that Johnson envisions in this nervy debut collection of nine stories, each bristling with inventive energy. Trapped in their high-tech surroundings, his characters are unable to navigate a hazardous social maze, but unsure of how to live outside it. "Teen Sniper" depicts a sour aftermath of corporate melt-down. Fifteen-year-old Tim is the leader of a sniper squad whose targets are renegade employees. He struggles to think of flowers

as he takes aim through Hewlett Packard's windows, an attempt at positive imagery that is cruelly mirrored by the sumptuous corporate flower beds below. Meanwhile, a touching tale of adolescent confusion unfolds: Tim can stop his heartbeat when he takes aim, but he still can't talk to girls. A sense of alienated adolescence pervades each of these nine stories, even those in which the characters are fully grown. Johnson conveys a powerful blend of stunted development and premature knowledge, showing emptiness and neglect in a harsh new light. In the masterful "Cliff Gods of Acapulco," the narrator recalls "the boxy loop of youth, a decade that leaves your ears ringing with television and loneliness," and Johnson seamlessly depicts the merging of teenage lethargy with adult introspection amid the havoc wreaked by a plane crash, a father lost in Africa and an assortment of vicious animals. "The Canadianaut" deals with isolation taken to a dazzling extreme: Canadian scientists live in "scientific seclusion" in the frozen wasteland of northern Canada, where they race to achieve the first moon landing. Each of these unusual, skillful stories exhibits a fierce talent, showcasing Johnson's quirky humor and slicing insight. Forecast: Johnson, whose fiction has appeared in *Esquire*, *Harper's* and the *Paris Review*, has already attracted a small crowd of fervent admirers who should snap up his debut collection. "

The program will begin at 7 p.m., following the regular monthly business meeting of the board. The program is open to the public. A one-dollar donation is requested. Refreshments will be served.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN BY JULIE AUER

Peter Taylor Prize and New Millennium Writing Awards Make Writers' Digest Top 25 Contests



Both the Peter Taylor Prize and the New Millennium Writing Awards have cracked *Writer's Digest* magazine's list of top 25 fiction contests. The Peter Taylor Prize for the Novel, directed by former KWG board member Brian Griffin, placed No. 20, just after the prestigious Mid-List Press First Series Award. The New Millennium Writing Award for Fiction, directed by KWG vice-president Don Williams, placed No. 23, just after the well-known New Letters Literary Awards. According to an introduction in the *Writers Digest* Winter 2002 Guide to Fiction Writing, a special edition glossy-cover issue, the editors selected contests "by identifying ones that are both reliable and writer-friendly. The contests are ranked according to prize amounts, publication opportunities and entry fees. . ." Dozens, if not hundreds, of writing awards are offered annually for fiction. *Poets &*

Writers magazine, for instance, offers free listings for scores of contests each year, even though they limit their listings to contests that award \$1,000 or more per prize.

Congratulations to the Guild, to Brian Griffin, to the readers for the Peter Taylor Contest, and to Don Williams, editor of *NMW*.

Kudos should also be offered to the talented artist of the *New Millennium* cover above, Marybeth Boyanton.

At right, the cover of *The Marriage of Anna Mae Potts*, by DeWitt Henry, first winner of the Peter Taylor Prize, published in 2001 by The University of Tennessee Press.



I know. There's nothing more clichéd than to start a message with the words, "I have good news and bad news." So I'll put it this way: we're growing as an arts organization, and that's good news. But our budget isn't growing quite as fast. It's not a predicament, really, but it could turn into one if we ignore the facts as they are.

We have a lot going on, and everybody in the KWG is or can be a part of many different opportunities and activities just by being a Guild member. We are now calling for submissions for a new anthology that promises to be one of the best yet. An editor has been selected, and we're ahead of schedule. On April 6th, we will sponsor our first-ever Awards Gala at Lord Lindsey, and it's going to be a blast. Everyone is invited, and the price of admission is only ten bucks for food, entertainment, readings by R.B. Morris and our prize winners, and a chance to pay homage to a beloved Knoxville journalist, Carson Brewer.

Last year we participated in the Southern Festival of Books, and every KWG member who wanted to participate displayed and sold their books in our booth. We hope to do that again this year. We're participating in as many book fairs as possible. We have a good relationship with local book vendors and education centers. Along with the UT Press, we have realized our dream of sponsoring a national literary prize—the Tennessee Book Award—with the Peter Taylor Prize for the Novel. And we are proud of our local contests and our summer workshops for writers. The blunt truth is that it all costs money, though, and that is why the board of directors has proposed—subject to a vote by the general membership—raising the annual dues slightly, from \$20 to \$25. This would not take effect for several months. There must be at least 45 days of notice to the membership, who then vote on it. We will submit the vote at the August meeting, when we expect to have as large a turnout as possible, given that it is Open Mike Night. If we all vote to approve the dues hike, you pay the extra five bucks the next time your membership renewal is due. Let us know what you think before then. E-mail me at hildegaard@earthlink.net with your comments.

April is Poetry Month

Besides offering us poetic weather, poetic flowers and poetic hormones, the month of April gets people to rhyming, or trying to. If rhyming is your problem or your triumph, plan to attend Barnes & Noble Book Sellers Poetry Workshop on Saturday, April 13, from 1 -5 p.m. To register, contact Rip Lydick at ripoet@hotmail.com

And stemming from poetry conceived at the workshop, Rip Lydick will host "Purely Poetry," featuring workshop readers, at B&N on April 18 at 8 p.m. Contact Rip at e-mail address above. Rip, a busy man, is also seeking submissions for "Coffeehouse Poetry," an anthology. E-mail ripoet@hotmail.com

Need Inspiration? It's Conference Time

Attending a writers' conference doesn't have to mean travelling long distances or spending a lot of money. You can find a conference within half an hour's drive, or half a day's drive. Following are some upcoming inspiration-making gatherings to juice up your writing and your enthusiasm,

The Tennessee Mountain Writers 2002 Conference

begins with a reception on Wednesday evening, April 10, and continues with workshops and specialty sessions all day Thursday, Friday, and part of Saturday. The Thursday evening presentation is a panel discussion led by workshop leaders; Friday evening the spotlight shines on a one-woman presentation of Lee Smith's work—plus a Q & A appearance afterward by Ms. Smith herself. On Saturday evening, Lee Smith steps to the podium as the featured banquet speaker. Afterward, the festivities continue with the presentation of the TMW 2002 Writing Contest Awards. For further information, see the last KWG newsletter or go to the TMW web site.

The Knoxville Writers Group meets on weekdays, the fourth Wednesday of each month from 11:30-1:00 for a luncheon meeting at the University of Tennessee University Center, Knoxville, located at the corner of Kingston Pike and Neyland Avenue. Speakers and readings by writers are featured. Visitors are welcome! For luncheon reservations, contact Ruth Githens at 922-6346 (evenings).



The Writers Workshop, Asheville, is offering the following Spring 2002 workshops. Fees listed are for nonmembers of the Workshop. More complete workshop information is available by e-mailing writrWkshp@aol.com or by sending a SASE to Editor, The Writers' Workshop, 387 Beaucatcher Rd., Asheville, NC 28805. **THE BASICS OF SCREENWRITING**, led by Ron Stacker Thompson. Meets Saturday, APRIL 13, 10:30

AM-5 PM. \$60. **FICTION WORKSHOP**, led by Brenda McClain. Meets Saturday, APRIL 27, 10:30 AM-5 PM. Fee: \$60. **WRITING AND REVISING YOUR MEMOIRS**, led by Karen Ackerson. Meets Saturday, MAY 4, 10 AM-4:30 PM. Fee: \$60. **A WEEKEND WITH WRITERS AND EDITORS**, MARCH 22-24, 2002 .

Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Midsouth Annual Spring Conference, April 20, 2002, the University School, Nashville, Tennessee. Speakers will be Newberry-winning author Sid Fleischman, Walker & Co. editor Tim Travaglini, publishing consultant Alice B. Acheson, authors Ronald Kidd,

Lynne Berry, and Tracy Barrett, and illustrator Brian Lies. Manuscript and portfolio critiques available. Registration fee: \$65 SCBWI members, \$70 non-members. Registration limited to the first 100 paid. For registration form: business-sized SASE to Tracy Barrett, SCBWI-Midsouth Regional Advisor, P.O. Box 120061, Nashville, TN 37212. For information: 615/297-1667 or scbwi.midsouth@juno.com .

The Writers Association of Blount County (WABC) meets at 7 PM on the second Tuesday evening of each month in the library of Monte Vista Baptist Church, Maryville, Tennessee. Visitors are welcome. For information on the April 9 meeting or if you have other inquiries, contact Connie Slingluff at csling3297@aol.com .

(Illustration: Lost State Writers photo collage)

(Conferences, continued on p. 4)



(Conferences,
cont'd.)

The Lost State Writers Conference will hold its fourth annual conference September 26-28 in Greeneville, TN at the historic General Morgan Inn. Featured speakers will be novelist Lee Smith and poet

Charles Wright. Conference officials are now offering full scholarships to those interested in attending the event. To apply for a scholarship, submit a paper copy of your work no more than five pages long, typed and double-spaced for prose. For poetry submissions, send no more than three pages containing no more than 30 lines per piece. Manuscripts must be original work that has never before been published. Send to Elizabeth Gordon, Lost State Writers Conference, P.O. Box 5117, Greeneville, TN

SEWANEE WRITERS CONFERENCE JULY 16-28 (Tuesday through Sunday), 2002. Thirteenth annual two-week conference at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. Faculty includes fiction writers John Casey, Barry Hannah, Diane Johnson, Randall Kenan, Margot Livesey, Jill McCorkle, Alice McDermott, and Claire Messud, and poets Andrew Hudgins, Mark Jarman, Dave Smith, and Ellen Bryant Voigt. Daisy Foote and Romulus Linney will work with playwrights. The conference also features distinguished writers, critics, and agents. **Scholarships available. See link for details:** <http://www.sewanewriters.org/swc.htm>.

FIRST ANNUAL EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY (ETSU) CELEBRATION OF BOOKS AND AUTHORS, Saturday, APRIL 13, 2002. On April 13, one hundred-plus authors will have the opportunity to increase their exposure in a 1.5 million dollar regional market. The deadline for this year was February 1, so it's too late to sign on and introduce your new book there this year. However, you can attend. While there, you can enjoy book signings, see what's new on the market, and make your own promotional plans for participation in next year's Celebration. If you are interested in receiving further information, please send your name, address, e-mail address, phone, and fax number to etsulib@etsu.edu

FOURTH ANNUAL SOUTHERN KENTUCKY FESTIVAL OF BOOKS: Saturday, April 20, sponsored by the Western Kentucky University, will be held at the Sloan Convention Center, former Bowling Green Convention Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Over 200 authors from all over the Southeast will be present at the festival to sign and discuss their books. Throughout the day, readings, presentations and panels will be held. For more information, get in touch with Jayne Pelaski at Jayne.Pelaski@wky.edu

Call for Submissions

Food Anthology

For our literary food anthology, the Knoxville Writers' Guild is currently seeking short stories, poems, creative nonfiction, and art that feed the heart and brain; that season the imagination, or just pepper the funny bone. We want words and pictures that evoke the sensuality of food and its place in people's lives. Give us saucy tales, piquant rhymes, or even bitter reminiscences that evoke the full range of our human relationships with food.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Prose: Up to 10 pp. double-spaced
Poetry: Three poems per submission
Visual Art: 5 black and white photos, illustrations, etc.

Submissions will be blind judged, so do not include any identifying information on the work itself. Include a cover sheet with author's name, address, phones, e-mails, and the title of the submission. Writers making the first cut will need to provide electronic submissions, along with a short bio, in Microsoft Word. Submissions must be unpublished. We will accept simultaneous submissions but need immediate notification if another publisher accepts the work. Include an SASE postcard for notification. Submissions will not be returned unless an SASE with correct postage is included.

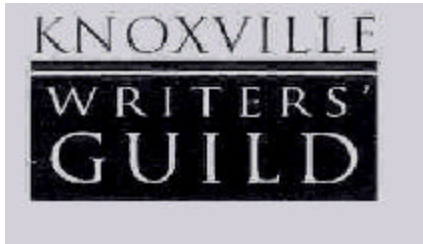
Final postmark deadline: June 1, 2002
Projected publication: October 2002
Mail to KWG Anthology, P.O. Box 10326, Knoxville, TN 37939

Contributors will receive a complimentary copy of the anthology. www.knoxvillewritersguild.org



Knoxville Writers' Guild:

Organized in December 1992 in Knoxville, TN, to facilitate a broad, inclusive and egalitarian community among area writers; to provide a forum for information, support and sharing among writers; to help members improve and market their writing skills, and to promote writing and creativity in the wider community through education, publication, and sponsorship of writing-related public events. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at the Laurel Theater. **Officers:** President: Julie Auer; Vice President: Don Williams; Secretary: Kim Trevathan; Treasurer: Laura Still; Hospitality: Kay Newton; Publicity: Marybeth Boyanton; President Emeritus: Jack Reese; VP Emeritus: Michael Gillespie; **Newsletter Editor:** Jeanne McDonald; **Webmistress:** Jo Ann Pantanizopoulos. **Board Members:** Julia Auer, Marybeth Boyanton, Robert Boyd, Jacqueline Kittrell, Michael Knight, Judy Loest, Robert Lydick, Kay Newton, Caroline Norris, Elaine Oswald, Pamela Schoenwaldt, Laura Still, Kim Trevathan, Perry Tschantz, and Don Williams. Dues are \$20, \$15 for students. The KWG does not discriminate against any person because of race, age, gender, handicap or country of national origin. Tel: 531-8855; send e-mail messages to editor, jmd531k@msn.com or to pres. at hildegard@earthlink.com web: www.knoxvillewritersguild.org



**P.O. Box 10326
Knoxville, TN 37939**

HOW TO JOIN

To join the Writers' Guild, complete the form below and mail to P.O. Box 10326, Knoxville, TN 37939, along with annual dues of \$20. Dues are \$15 if you are a student. Membership allows you to participate in study groups, receive discounts on books and Guild-sponsored merchandise, and monthly issues of the newsletter.

SCREENERS NEEDED

The Knoxville Writers' Guild needs screeners for the 2002 Peter Taylor Prize for the Novel. We are expecting at least 400 submissions to this year's competition, and we need all the help we can get. Dozens of KWG members have screened in prior years, and they have found the experience to be fun, educational – and a nice addition to their resumes.

Screening will begin in late April and will continue through June. If you like to read literary fiction and have not yet been involved in this project (which is, by the way, one of KWG's principal fundraisers), please send a letter explaining your interest and your background to Brian Griffin, P.O. Box 2565, Knoxville, TN 37901. (If you have helped in the past, we will contact you soon via e-mail.)

<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Telephone No. _____</p> <p>Email Address _____</p>
--